C 72/990

Area Wage Survey
Columbus, GA-AL
May 1990

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
July 1990

This summary presents results of a May 1990 survey of occupational wages and employee benefits in the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Chattahoochee and Muscogee Counties, GA; and Russell County, AL. This is 1 of over 110 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys annually or every other year at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 90 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 75 establishments employing 24,294 workers was selected to represent 175 establishments employing 35,606 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Tables 2, 3, and 4 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and insurance, health, and retirement plans for nonsupervisory production and related workers and office workers. (See table 5 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

Revised occupational descriptions are being introduced in this survey for computer systems analysts, computer programmers, computer operators, drafters, and electronics technicians. In addition, the maintenance, toolroom, and powerplant descriptions have been modified so that workers performing maintenance services for establishments other than their employing establishment are not automatically excluded.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Columbus, GA-AL, May 1990

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.80 and under 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 and over
Secretaries	213	8.72	8.31	7.20– 9.69	–	–	–	4	5	13	21	26	17	34	19	19	7	10	11	3	2	5	9	7	1	–	–
Secretaries I	96	7.27	7.19	6.54– 8.08	–	–	–	4	3	13	20	19	8	20	4	4	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries III	94	9.48	9.12	8.41–10.10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	9	14	15	14	7	10	7	–	1	2	4	3	1	–	–
Secretaries IV	16	12.31	12.19	10.93–13.70	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	3	3	1	1	5	2	–	–	–
Typists	14	6.22	5.87	– –	–	–	–	2	7	1	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists I	14	6.22	5.87	– –	–	–	–	2	7	1	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors	10	6.46	6.52	– –	–	–	–	1	3	1	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors I	9	6.39	6.41	– –	–	–	–	1	3	1	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	36	6.39	6.37	5.63– 6.50	–	–	–	8	4	15	1	2	1	4	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	30	6.06	6.33	5.26– 6.43	–	–	–	8	3	15	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operators	8	7.27	7.33	– –	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operator-receptionists	51	6.40	5.86	5.50– 7.33	–	–	7	4	16	3	8	1	2	7	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Order clerks	40	6.70	6.70	6.06– 7.41	–	–	–	7	1	8	10	6	3	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Order clerks I	23	6.31	6.35	5.29– 7.07	–	–	–	7	–	7	3	4	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks	151	6.94	6.83	5.50– 8.17	–	–	–	18	38	13	8	11	22	22	11	5	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks I	25	6.25	6.04	5.75– 6.50	–	–	–	–	11	7	3	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks II	103	6.95	7.10	5.50– 8.22	–	–	–	16	25	2	5	10	14	21	5	4	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks III	23	7.65	7.50	6.35– 8.76	–	–	–	2	2	4	–	–	5	1	6	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Payroll clerks	52	7.71	7.46	6.75– 8.50	–	–	–	–	3	7	13	4	5	6	6	1	2	3	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
Computer systems analysts	29	17.21	16.37	14.42–20.19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	2	4	4	3	*13
Computer systems analysts I	6	12.52	12.76	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	2	1	–	–	–
Computer systems analysts II	11	15.64	15.40	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	3	1
Computer systems analysts III	9	20.61	20.63	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9
Computer programmers:					–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers III	33	13.16	12.50	11.06–15.39	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	3	2	8	1	2	3	4	2
Computer operators	62	9.11	8.51	6.88–10.83	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	10	6	4	4	7	3	2	1	3	4	2	1	4	–	4	–
Computer operators II	30	7.38	6.99	6.63– 7.58	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	9	6	2	2	1	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators III	27	11.24	10.83	8.80–13.49	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	5	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	4	–	4	–
Electronics technicians	41	12.48	12.54	9.25–14.33	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	8	4	1	–	1	3	1	2	4	6	3	1
Electronics technicians II	27	11.19	9.25	8.66–14.11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	8	4	–	–	–	1	1	–	4	4	3	–	–
Electronics technicians III	10	16.43	17.45	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	1	5
Registered industrial nurses	6	11.79	11.95	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–
Maintenance carpenters	10	9.67	9.82	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance electricians	44	10.13	10.25	9.94–10.42	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	8	29	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance painters	6	10.39	9.73	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Maintenance machinists	15	10.65	10.38	10.36–11.32	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	1	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	132	10.86	9.87	9.25–12.12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	62	5	5	–	1	–	41	–	13	1	2	–
Motor vehicle mechanics	66	10.43	10.00	9.00–11.20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	4	13	3	16	1	5	8	–	–	–	5	2	–
General maintenance workers	46	7.70	7.79	7.50– 8.49	–	–	–	6	–	–	3	–	23	8	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance trades helpers	7	6.97	7.00	– –	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stationary engineers	11	9.88	7.77	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	1	1	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Columbus, GA-AL, May 1990 —Continued

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																							
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.80 and under 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 and over
Truckdrivers	463	8.52	7.02	6.12– 9.03	50	3	7	6	16	72	70	30	35	15	10	49	6	–	–	–	2	4	2	–	–	86	–
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	121	6.70	6.75	6.25– 6.80	–	–	–	–	6	40	48	14	9	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	116	8.10	8.08	7.00– 9.03	–	–	6	–	–	2	16	7	18	10	4	49	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
Receivers	19	8.07	8.87	6.20– 9.39	–	–	–	3	–	5	–	1	–	–	2	5	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Shippers and receivers	19	10.94	13.53	7.70–13.53	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	–	–	–
Warehousemen	56	9.20	8.05	7.36–12.53	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	6	5	10	2	–	–	7	–	–	–	15	1	–	–	–	–
Material handling laborers	64	6.27	6.39	5.81– 6.64	–	2	–	9	10	19	21	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forklift operators	248	7.49	6.75	6.56– 9.39	–	1	12	5	4	39	96	16	8	–	–	42	–	13	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	498	5.96	6.24	5.81– 6.65	93	12	11	2	27	182	153	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases—but not bonuses—under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more than this rate and one-half receive the same as or less than this rate. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Middle ranges are not provided when fewer than 15 workers are reported.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] Workers were distributed as follows: 2 at 17.00 to 18.00; 3 at 19.00 to 20.00; 4 at 20.00 to 21.00; 1 at 21.00 to 22.00; 2 at 22.00 to 23.00; and 1 at 26.00 to 27.00.

[4] Workers were distributed as follows: 1 at 18.00 to 19.00; and 4 at 19.00 to 20.00.

Table 2. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers in Columbus, GA-AL, May 1990

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	8	1
In establishments providing paid holidays	92	99
Number of holidays:		
2 holidays	2	(1)
5 holidays	9	3
6 holidays	9	7
Plus 3 half days	–	(1)
7 holidays	4	6
8 holidays	30	15
9 holidays	15	53
10 holidays	11	9
11 holidays	5	1
12 holidays	3	3
13 holidays	4	2
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	8.2	8.7

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 3. Paid vacation provisions[1] for full-time workers in Columbus, GA-AL, May 1990

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	1	–
In establishments providing paid vacations	99	100
Length-of-time payment	67	99
Percentage payment	32	1
By vacation pay provisions for:[2]		
6 months of service:		
Under 1 week	25	3
1 week	7	70
1 year of service:		
1 week	86	40
2 weeks	13	60
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(*)	–
2 years of service:		
1 week	56	6
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	(*)
2 weeks	43	93
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(*)	–
3 years of service:		
1 week	48	4
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	(*)
2 weeks	51	96
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(*)	–
5 years of service:		
1 week	3	(*)
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	(*)
2 weeks	81	80
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	–	9
3 weeks	14	11
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(*)	–
10 years of service:		
1 week	3	(*)
2 weeks	41	8
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(*)	1
3 weeks	52	78
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	–	9
4 weeks	2	4
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	(*)	–
15 years of service:		
1 week	3	(*)
2 weeks	12	5
3 weeks	54	43
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	–	1
4 weeks	31	51
7 weeks	(*)	–
20 years of service:		
1 week	3	(*)
2 weeks	12	5
3 weeks	35	7
4 weeks	45	85
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	(*)	1
5 weeks	4	2
7 weeks	(*)	–
25 years of service:		
1 week	3	(*)
2 weeks	12	5
3 weeks	16	7
4 weeks	52	62
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	(*)	1
5 weeks	12	24
6 weeks	4	1
7 weeks	(*)	–
30 years of service:		
1 week	3	(*)
2 weeks	12	5
3 weeks	16	7
4 weeks	52	62
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	(*)	1
5 weeks	12	23
6 weeks	4	2
7 weeks	(*)	–
Maximum vacation available:		
1 week	3	(*)
2 weeks	12	5
3 weeks	16	7
4 weeks	52	62
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	(*)	1
5 weeks	12	23
6 weeks	4	2
7 weeks	(*)	–

[1] Includes basic plans only. Excludes plans such as vacation bonus, vacation-savings, and those plans which offer 'extended' or 'sabbatical' benefits beyond basic plans to workers with qualifying lengths of service. Typical of such exclusions are plans in the steel, aluminum, and can industries.

[2] Includes payment other than 'length of time,' such as percentage of annual earnings or flat-sum payments converted to an equivalent time basis; a payment of 2 percent of annual earnings was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service were chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression. For example, the changes in proportions at 10 years' service include changes in provisions occurring between 5 and 10 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after 10 years includes those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

[*] Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Insurance, health, and retirement plans offered to full-time workers in Columbus, GA-AL, May 1990

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below[1]	97	99
Life insurance	92	98
Noncontributory plans	61	68
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	81	90
Noncontributory plans	52	61
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both	83	95
Sickness and accident insurance	76	35
Noncontributory plans	49	33
Sick leave (full pay and no waiting period)	18	83
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	3	5
Long-term disability insurance	25	84
Noncontributory plans	18	80
Hospitalization, surgical, and medical insurance	97	99
Noncontributory plans	41	32
Health maintenance organizations	3	6
Noncontributory plans	1	5
Dental care	69	64
Noncontributory plans	27	25
Vision care	6	16
Noncontributory plans	5	15
Alcohol and drug abuse treatment	74	74
Noncontributory plans	32	15
Hearing care	6	5
Noncontributory plans	5	3
Retirement plans	83	94
Noncontributory plans	73	89
Pension	72	85
Noncontributory plans	70	84
Lump sum	32	46
Noncontributory plans	5	6
Other	1	(2)
Noncontributory plans	1	(2)

[1] Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which at least part of the cost is borne by the employer. 'Noncontributory plans' include only those financed entirely by the employer. Federally required plans such as Social Security and railroad retirement are excluded. Benefit plans legally required by State governments, however, are included.

[2] Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: Establishments providing more than one type of retirement plan (e.g., an annuity and a lump sum payment) may cause the sums of the separate plans to be greater than the total for all retirement plans. "Other" retirement plans provide for a fixed number of payments after which payments are discontinued.

Table 5. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Columbus, GA-AL,[1] May 1990

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied[4]	Within scope of survey				Studied[5]
				Total[6]		Full-time production and related workers	Full-time office workers	
				Number	Percent			
All divisions	50	175	75	35,606	100	20,779	4,598	24,294
Manufacturing	50	58	28	18,424	52	14,307	1,375	13,817
Nonmanufacturing[7]	50	117	47	17,182	48	6,472	3,223	10,477

[1] The Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through October 1984, consists of Chattahoochee and Muscogee Counties, GA; and Russell County, AL. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used in classifying establishments by industry. All government operations are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of nonmanufacturing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

[4] Includes executive, professional, part-time, and other workers excluded from the separate production and office categories.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture, mining, construction, and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

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